To the

FRINTON-ON-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Essex

Annual Report for the Year 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

In placing my Annual Report in your hands, it will be seen that the health of the district generally has been uniformly good. There has been but little serious illness, and the number of infectious cases considerably lower than in former years. One case of scarlet fever was brought into the Town; and second suspected case, which was ultimately found not to be scarlatina. One case of diphtheria was sent here for convalescence, and was thought to be free from infection, but by taking a swab, for bacteriological purposes, I found bacilli present; the case was isolated until found free from infection. All the infectious cases were brought into the town.

Nine deaths occurred during the twelve months, and of these, three occurred in children under one year of age, the first time for three years any death has been under this heading. Two of these arose from premature birth, and the third from accidental suffocation, on which a Coroner's Inquest was held.

There was practically a complete absence of intestinal disorders during the summer months, probably due in some measure to the cooler weather of those months.

The question of acquiring ground for a burial site is now under the consideration of the Council, but the suitability of soil, drainage, and acquisition of site being matters of importance, will necessitate some delay, but the Council are endeavouring to come to some definite decision in the matter.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This has been carried out with satisfaction during the year. A few complaints have occurred, but these arise chiefly when there is a large influx of visitors in the season. The streets are kept in a clean condition, which is generally remarked upon by visitors when coming here; certain portions of the Esplanade have been tarred, the dust nuisance is thereby materially lessened.

DRAINAGE.

The system of drainage in the Town is satisfactory, and defects in houses have been made good ; they have been periodically flushed.

THE WATER SUPPLY

has been ample, with the exception of a restricted supply temporarily during the season. The quality shows it to be a good potable water, and of the samples taken, all were found to be free from impurities.

It would be desirable if householders would have their cisterns covered, and also cleansed, at least once a year, as instances have occurred where complaints have been made, from the presence of foreign bodies entering the cisterns.

MILK SUPPLY.

The quality of milk supplied to the town is excellent, and judging from frequent samples taken and tested, show a good percentage, varying from 9 °/₀ to 20 °/₀, of cream ; all the samples were free from dilution with water. The supply is pure and wholesome, and from bacteriological examinations made, found to be free from contamination.

It is recommended that any cowshed or dairy in the district should be brought into line with the recommendations suggested by Dr. Thresh, for their proper supervision and to secure a pure supply.

The bakehouses have been visited, and found to be in a cleanly and sanitary condition.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There have been fewer cases of zymotic disease during the past year than for some time ; only six have been reported, all of which were imported. They may be thus classified :—

Chicken Pox	...	2 cases.
Measles ...	...	2 cases.
Scarlet Fever	...	2 cases,

one of which was kept under supervision, as doubtful, and ultimately found not to be so.

The zymotic case for the year is equivalent to 3·3 per mille. The zymotic death rate, nil.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Nine deaths have been registered during the year ; of these, three were in infants under one year, two of these arising from premature birth, and the third due to accidental death from overlying ; the two former were eleven and two days old respectively, and the third six

weeks old. Two deaths occurred among visitors from Pulmonary Tuberculosis; these came into the district for specific treatment, but in deference to the wishes of the Council, I have, to meet their wishes, decided not to encourage cases to come here for that particular treatment.

Estimating the population of the district at 1,800, the total death rate is equivalent to 4·4 per mille.

The birth-rate was not quite so high as the previous year; twenty-nine births were registered for the year; of these, fourteen were boys and fifteen girls.

This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 16·11 per mille.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. WM. GODFREY, M.D., M R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

January 25th, 1910.